



County of Los Angeles

# Child Care Planning Committee

222 South Hill Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ph. (213) 974-4103 • Fax (213) 217-5106

[www.childcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.childcare.lacounty.gov)



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Vice-chair

September 4, 2007

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

## **ADOPTION OF CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

- Adopt the 2006 Child Care Needs Assessment report and its recommendations as prepared by the County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee).

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

AB 1542, signed by the Governor in August 1997, directs each local child care planning council to conduct a countywide child care needs assessment at least once every five years. The attached Needs Assessment report has been prepared by the Planning Committee in response to that mandate. Upon adoption by your Board, and has been approved by the County Superintendent of Schools, the Needs Assessment report will be forwarded to the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD).

The Needs Assessment report is a compilation of key information on the current state of child care and development services in Los Angeles County. It describes the demographic and economic factors affecting the need, demand, and availability of care, as well as the estimated use of both licensed and license-exempt care. The Needs Assessment report presents data on the estimated shortfalls and surpluses of care for: infants/toddlers, preschool, and school-age. This data is compiled by various geographies; countywide by Service Planning Areas (SPA) and zip codes.

## Staff

Laura A. Escobedo  
Child Care Planning Coordinator

The Needs Assessment report also compares data gathered in 2004 with more current 2006 data in order to identify potential trends in the need for and use of child care and development services throughout Los Angeles County.

A detailed data base with numbers of children, licensed spaces, estimated need for care, and use of care has been developed and is available to the public on an interactive Web site at <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us/childcare>. This data base can be used for planning, research, and grant writing purposes. However, it does not include the analysis or recommendations that are contained in the Needs Assessment report which your Board is being asked to endorse.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Costs associated with developing the Needs Assessment report were offset by a contract with CDE/CDD.

Both the Web site data base and the Needs Assessment report are intended to serve as tools to target public and private resources to areas with high need and low supply of child care and development services.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The major findings and recommendations of the needs assessment are:

- **There has been an increase in the use of family child care for all age groups.** Los Angeles County saw a dramatic shift in the utilization of family child care in the last two years. From an estimated surplus of 49,205 spaces in 2004, it appears there was an estimated shortage of 5,309 in 2006, primarily due to the shortages for infant and school-age children in family child care.

The Planning Committee recommends continuing efforts that have been employed over the past two years which include: training and support to improve parent/provider communications, best practices in working with multiple age groups, marketing and business skills, and enhancing the public's perception of good quality family child care.

- **Expanded center capacity has not kept pace with the increasing number of working families seeking center-based care.** Despite some progress in reducing the shortage of center-based programs, the demand for center-based care exceeds the supply by an estimated 73,000 spaces. The number of children with working parents grew by 28,955 between 2004 and 2006, contributing to the gap in supply.

The Planning Committee recommends continued efforts to increase licensed capacity, particularly for full-day, full-year options. This may include: support for center expansion at state and local levels, support for Constructing Connections LA, increase in public funding available to operate child care and development programs, encourage the development of

school-based after-school programs at all elementary campuses, include child care center construction in multi-use sites, and reduce regulatory barriers to development.

- **Preschool is the only age group to experience an increase in both center-based and family child care capacity.** There was an increase of 7,955 licensed center-based spaces and an increase of 4,998 family child care spaces. This is due primarily to the increase in half-day pre-kindergarten spaces for four year olds. Unfortunately these part-day services do not meet the needs of working families.

The Planning Committee recommends that any pre-kindergarten program expansion include full-day programs to accommodate working families.

- **There are differences in the need for child care and development services among the eight SPAs.** Some SPAs continue to have an oversupply of family child care; others have extreme shortfalls in available care for infants and school-age children.

The Planning Committee recommends that the SPA profiles within the Needs Assessment report be shared with each SPA Council; and meeting with subgroups within the Councils to encourage local strategies to address regional shortfalls.

- **There continues to be a high rate of use of license-exempt care.** There are over one million children between the ages of zero and 13, whose parents work, and therefore likely to need some form of child care and development services during the week. Nearly 60 percent of these children are estimated to use license-exempt care provided by friends, family, and neighbors. Although use of license-exempt care decreased overall (-1.3 percent), this is still the choice of thousands of families and the only child care experienced by over half a million children.

The Planning Committee recommends expanding opportunities for training and quality improvement among license-exempt providers, continuing the development of more licensed options to allow families a true choice of care; promoting use of resource and referral programs to ensure families are aware of their choices; and connecting the families of three and four year old children, who use license-exempt care, to pre-kindergarten programs so that these children can have a quality pre-kindergarten experience and the support of full-day, full-year care through their license-exempt providers.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Needs Assessment report will inform the decisions of individual agencies, providers, and government entities interested in expanding child care and development options to meet the needs of families in Los Angeles County. The Needs Assessment report provides key data for an examination of CDE/CDD funding priorities for areas of Los Angeles County. A review of these funding priorities will be done by the Planning Committee in 2007-2008.

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
September 4, 2007  
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**CONCLUSION**

Once approved by your Board, the Needs Assessment report will be submitted to CDE/CDD. The Planning Committee intends to use this report to inform the public and policymakers about child care and development needs of families in Los Angeles County. It will also serve as a catalyst for discussion about long term solutions to a still underdeveloped system of care.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Lancaster" followed by a small "L.E." in the upper right corner.

CRAIG LANCASTER, Chair  
Child Care Planning Committee

CL:KH  
LE:ak

Attachment



# ***2006 Child Care Needs Assessment for Los Angeles County***

***February 2007***



***This report was prepared by the County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee with funding from the California Department of Education, Child Development Division***

## ***The County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee***

The mission of the County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) is to engage parents, child care providers, allied organizations, community, and public agencies in collaborative planning efforts to improve the overall child care infrastructure of Los Angeles County, including the quality and continuity, affordability, and accessibility of child care and development services for all families

The Office of Child Care, within the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office, supports the work of the Planning Committee. Within this branch of County government, the Planning Committee is positioned to work with County departments, as well as other community groups and Commissions to improve the lives of children and families in Los Angeles.

To fulfill its mission, the Planning Committee prepares publications and reports on issues important to the field of child care and development in Los Angeles County and carries out the mandates detailed in the legislation (AB 1542) creating local planning councils. Among these mandates is: *Conduct a Countywide needs assessment a least every five years.*

The following report is the product of the Countywide needs assessment conducted by the Planning Committee in 2006.



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## I. Introduction

The 2006 Child Care Needs Assessment for Los Angeles County focuses on the overall availability of child care and development options in the County and attempts to estimate need for these services by looking at current use of child care and development services by type of setting. An important use of this report is for planning and implementing parts of Goal 3 of the Los Angeles County Strategic Plan for Child Care and Development: Access to a Sufficient Supply of Child Care. By carefully using data such as this we can more effectively target areas most in need of attention.

The Needs Assessment database (available at: <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us/childcare>) provides a comparison of the numbers of children likely to use child care with the care that is currently available. It also indicates the types of care being used at the point in time that data was collected. Queries for specific geographies (census tracts, zip codes, communities, cities) can be undertaken using the website. For instance, it is possible to get an estimate of unmet need for child care for infants and toddlers for the City of Torrance and for each of the specific zip codes within the city. The data will also indicate the number of licensed spaces currently available within the area being considered.

The comparison between need for care and available spaces is further refined by comparing the use of certain types of care by age of child, with the availability of that type of care. For example; the number of preschool-age children whose parents are likely to choose center-based care (based on current rates of use) compared with the number of available licensed center-based spaces for preschool-age children.

While a count of licensed care is accessible and reliable, estimating need or demand is much more difficult. Families use child care and development services for a variety of reasons: employment, training or education, incapacitation of a parent, as well as to enhance the development of the child. Data on numbers of working families is available and reliable; however, the number of parents who are in job training or in school is less available. There is little reliable data on the families who use child care and development services only for the child's benefit, not as a substitution for parental care.

In addition, we know anecdotally that many families who work choose alternate work shifts in order for one parent to be with the children at all times; or parents work only during the hours in which their children attend school. These "working" parents are not technically in the market for child care services. Again, reliable data on the numbers for these family situations is not available.

It was decided that the numbers of working parents in both single and two parent families would be the best indicator of overall need since this is the largest, most reliable number of children who are most likely to need and use some form of child care on a regular basis. Although it may be a slight overestimate of those needing child care services, it would compensate for the uncountable number of families who use child care because they are in school, job-training, or solely for the child's development.



## II. Executive Summary

The data gathered in 2005-2006 for Los Angeles County indicate there was an increase of 28,955 children with working parents between 2004 and 2006. According to the results of the Los Angeles County Health Survey (LACHS), there were also changes in estimates of the type of care used by these working families resulting in an increased use of family child care (FCC) by 50,321, and decreases in the use of center-based (-13,435) and license-exempt care (-7,950). There was also an overall decrease in available licensed spaces in FCC (-4,739) and an increase in center-based capacity/spaces (6,362).

There was a dramatic shift in the utilization of FCC in the last two years. From an estimated surplus of 49,205 spaces in 2004, it appears there is an estimated shortage of 5,309 in 2006, primarily due to the shortages for infant and school-age care. There has been progress in reducing the shortage in center-based programs; however, there is still a 75,713 space shortage Countywide in licensed center-based settings. Although Los Angeles County is making strides toward adding to child care capacity, we are not keeping up with the increasing demands. There were 28,955 more children with working parents between 2004 and 2006. However, the net gain in licensed care was only 1,623 spaces (6,362 more center-based and a reduction of 4,739 spaces in FCCs).

The biggest news in the 2006 Needs Assessment is a shift in the use of FCC by all age groups. It appears that more families and more children are using FCC settings compared with the estimated use of FCC in 2004.

### ESTIMATED USE OF CARE BY TYPE FOR INFANTS AND PRESCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Types of Care	Center Care		FCC		License-exempt	
	2004	2006	2004	2006	2004	2006
Infants/toddlers	24%	14.7%	13%	20.8%	63.1%	64.5%
Preschool	66%	63.4%	7%	13.2%	27%	23.4%

### ESTIMATED USE OF CARE BY TYPE FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Types of Care	Center Care		FCC		License-exempt	
	2004	2006	2004	2006	2004	2006
School-age	21.1%	19.8%	3.7%	6.7%	75.2%	73.5%

There appears to be no single reason for this shift toward use of FCC; rather there are multiple factors that have combined to affect this shift. The factors can be categorized in the following ways:

- Demographic changes and market pressures
- Licensed capacity and license-exempt center capacity changes
- Training and support factors

Among some of the factors are: 1) an increase in the number of young children with families in the workforce; 2) successful promotion of the need for school-readiness for preschoolers; 3) competition for too few center-based spaces; and 4) an improved perception of the quality of family child care.

## Findings and Recommendations

### **1. Increased use of family child care for all age groups.**

The Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) recommends continuing efforts that have been employed over the past two years which include: training and support to improve parent communications, best practices in working with multiple age groups, marketing, and business skills; and enhancing the public's understanding of good quality family child care.

### **2. Expanded center capacity has done little to keep up with the increasing number of working families seeking center-based care.**

The Planning Committee recommends continued efforts to increase licensed capacity, particularly for full-day, full-year options. This may include: support for center expansion at state and local levels; support for Constructing Connections LA; increase in public funding available to operate child care and development programs; encourage the development of school-based after-school programs at all elementary campuses; include child care center construction in multi-use sites; and reduce regulatory barriers to development.

### **3. The only age group to experience an increase in both center-based and FCC capacity is preschool-age.**

This is due primarily to the increase in half-day pre-kindergarten spaces for four-year olds only.

The Planning Committee recommends that any pre-kindergarten expansion allow for full-day programs to accommodate working families.

### **4. There are differences in the need for child care and development services among the eight Service Planning Areas (SPA).**

The Planning Committee recommends sharing the Needs Assessment SPA profiles with each SPA Council and meeting with subgroups within the Councils to encourage local strategies which will address shortfalls.

### **5. There continues to be a high rate of use of license-exempt care.**

The Planning Committee recommends expanding opportunities for training and quality improvement among license-exempt providers; continue the development of more licensed options to allow families a true choice of care; promote use of the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&R) to ensure families are aware of their choices; and connect families with three and four year old children to pre-kindergarten programs so that these children can have a quality pre-kindergarten experience and the support of full-day, full-year care through their license-exempt providers.

### III. Data Sources and Calculations

#### Population Data: Number of Children within Zip Code, Census Tract, or SPA

The numbers of infants, preschool children, and school-age children, as well as the number of children with two employed parents or a single, employed parent was derived from the 2000 census and updated, based on data in the 2004 and 2005 Current Population Survey. The age categories are defined as follows: infants, 0-24 months; preschool, 2-5 years; school-age, 6-12 years.

#### Estimated Use of Care by Type for Infants and Preschool Children

Data estimates were derived from the 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Health Survey (LACHS). The Survey was conducted via telephone in which respondents were randomly selected using an unrestricted random digit dial sampling methodology inclusive of all eligible telephone households in Los Angeles County. A sample of 6,032 interviews was completed among parents/caregivers of children ages 17 years for the child section of the LACHS. Survey participants with children five years or younger were asked additional questions related to use of child care. The results of this section of the LACHS provide a basis to determine the likely or estimated use of care by working families with young children. The term “estimated use of care” will be used in all the tables for columns indicating the estimated numbers of children in a particular care type based on the data described above.

#### Types of Care

**Family Child Care (FCC)** refers to care settings where an individual has obtained a license to care for a small group of children (usually 6-14) in his/her own home. **Center-based care** refers to licensed facilities specifically designed to provide early care and education services to children. Legal **license-exempt care** is a category that includes in-home and out-of-home caregivers. These providers may be friends, neighbors, or family members. Nannies are included in this license-exempt care category. These individuals are not required to obtain a child care facility license if they care only for the children of one family other than their own children.

There is another category of legal license-exempt care which is also center-based. In this report we refer to this category as **school-age license-exempt center-based care**. As the name suggests, this is group care for school-age children situated on school campuses and administered by the school for the benefit of those families attending the school. If the program serves only the children attending the school, it is not required to have a child care center license. For the purposes of this Needs Assessment, we have included these license-exempt center-based capacity numbers with licensed center-based capacity for school-age children. The numbers were obtained through a survey of all school districts conducted in Winter 2006.

The estimates for the types of child care used by parents for children from 0–5 years were based on the percentages extracted from the LACHS (2005) and include the following:

Families with infants:

- 20.8 % select family child care
- 14.7% select center-based care
- 64.5% select license-exempt care

Families with preschool-age children:

- 13.2% select family child care
- 63.4% select center-based care
- 23.4% select license-exempt care

Estimates per SPA could not be generated due to small sample sizes, therefore, these estimates were applied Countywide.

### **Estimated Use of Care Type by School-Age Children**

Data estimates were derived from the Urban Institute's 2005 Report of the National Survey of American Families (NSAF). This Survey provides data for child care arrangements of school-age children. The NSAF was a telephone survey that used a random sample of telephone numbers, and in households without telephones, cellular phones were provided to complete the interviews. The Survey over-sampled low-income families as well as racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, and recipients of government services.

The estimates for the types of child care selected for school-age children by working mothers in California consisted of the following percentages: 19.8% for center-based care (including both licensed and license-exempt programs) and 6.7 % for family child care. We assigned all remaining child care arrangements which consisted of nannies/babysitters, relatives, self-care, and parent/other care to the license-exempt care category (73.5 %).

While these estimates of use of care by type for school-age children are not derived specifically from Los Angeles, the California profile from the Urban Institute report provided the best proxy for Los Angeles County estimates. The term “estimated use of care” is used on all tables for the columns indicating the estimated numbers of children in a particular care type based on the data described above.

### **Estimated Licensed Capacity**

The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (DSS,CCLD), supplied data (July 2006) for the licensed capacity of FCC homes and centers. The data is coded so that licensed capacity by age for centers is easily obtained.

There are specific codes to differentiate between large and small FCC homes. Age distribution within FCC homes was determined based on the results of The California Early Care and Education Workforce Study, Licensed Family Child Care Providers, Los Angeles County (2006). This included a telephone survey of 1,155 providers conducted by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. Providers were asked how many children

were currently enrolled and what the ages of the enrolled children were. The responses provided an average enrollment by age which was used to calculate percentages applied to each home, large (12-14 children) or small (6-8 children) so that we could distribute the licensed capacity among infants, preschool, and school-age children. The following average enrollment numbers have been rounded so that totals may not equal actual licensed capacity limits.

**ESTIMATED AVERAGE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN IN FCC :**

	Small FCC (6)	Small FCC (8)	Large FCC (12)	Large FCC (14)
Infants (0-2)	1.6	2.1	2.9	3.4
Preschool	2.7	3.6	6.3	7.4
School-age	1.7	2.4	2.8	3.2

**Estimated Surplus/Shortfall**

The estimated surplus or shortfall in capacity is the difference between the estimated need for/use of care by type and by age of children, and the respective capacities of each type of care. Complete data charts are available on the Needs Assessment website (<http://gismap.co.la.ca.us/childcare>). These charts indicate a surplus in capacity with a positive number and a shortfall with a negative number. It is not unusual to find that in the same geographic area, there may be a shortfall for one type of care and a surplus for another type of care.

**Capacity for License-Exempt Care**

The capacity for license-exempt care provided by individuals cannot be measured. This care is relationship based. In nearly all circumstances, the individuals providing care are doing so based on a relationship with the parent(s) of the child. When the need for child care ends, so does the status of the individual as a provider of child care. It is possible to get a count of those receiving subsidies on behalf of income-eligible children at any point in time. However, this would exclude all other license-exempt caregivers who are paid directly by the families. This is a very fluid population that changes quickly and does not have the stability of licensed facilities or license-exempt school-based programs.

**The Affordability Factor**

Cost of care is yet another factor that families consider in selecting one type of care over another or in choosing specific providers. While this report does not sort families' needs or choices based on income, we do know that income plays a role in decisions about child care and development utilization.

The information in **Table 1** is based on the Regional Market Rate Survey conducted by the California Department of Education/Child Development Division in 2005. It illustrates the burden that low income families face in selecting, and paying for licensed child care in Los Angeles County. Center-based infant care, for instance, will cost, on average, \$9,300 per year. For a household at the State median income level of \$64,496 per year

**Table 1: County Averages for Cost of Child Care**

<b>CENTER-BASED CARE</b>				
<b>Period</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Infant Average</b>	<b>Preschool Average</b>	<b>School-Age Average</b>
Monthly	FT	\$860.57	\$602.18	\$481.78
Monthly	PT	\$620.93	\$405.14	\$288.55
Weekly	FT	\$209.87	\$150.22	\$127.20
Weekly	PT	\$156.98	\$105.09	\$73.74
<b>FAMILY CHILD CARE</b>				
<b>Period</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Infant Average</b>	<b>Preschool Average</b>	<b>School-Age Average</b>
Monthly	FT	\$607.67	\$564.64	\$494.50
Monthly	PT	\$463.75	\$418.14	\$365.04
Weekly	FT	\$148.49	\$139.56	\$121.81
Weekly	PT	\$119.27	\$101.90	\$89.39

(Department of Finance 2006), child care would cost more than 14% of gross pay. The average in FCC (\$7295/year), while less than center-based care, is still 11.3% of gross pay for the same household.

Consider that the median household income in Los Angeles County is only \$ 43,518 (Census Bureau, 2004). Now the portion of a family's income that would be needed to pay for care is even larger, 25% and 18% respectively. Imagine a family at this income level, or less, with more than one child.

We do not know to what extent economic status affects choice and child care utilization. However, some studies indicate that children in low-income families are less likely to be in centers than children from families with higher incomes; and they are more likely to be in relative, or license-exempt care. Public subsidies can and do even the playing field for low income families in terms of making more choices available to them. However, there are thousands of eligible families who are waiting for subsidized child care and having to make choices without that support. As of December 2006, there were more than 51,000 children on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) waiting for subsidized child care and development services.

## IV. 2006 Assessment Results and Overview

**Table 2: Overall County Results**

	Number of Children 0-12	Number With Working Parents	Estimated use of care by type			Licensed Capacity*		Surplus or Shortfall in Licensed Capacity*	
			Center	FCC	License Exempt	FCC	Center	FCC	Center
2004	2,003,222	991,522	343,035	58,265	590,240	108,017	249,764	49,752	-93,271
2006	2,016,161	1,020,477	329,600	108,586	582,290	103,278	256,126	-5,308	-73,474
# change	12,939	28,955	-13,435	50,321	-7,950	-4,739	6,362		

\* Includes license-exempt center-based school-age care number

The data gathered in 2005-2006 indicate there was an increase of 28,955 more children with working parents between 2004 and 2006. There were also changes in estimates of the type of care used, with an increased use of FCC by 50,321, a decrease in use of center-based (-13,435), and license-exempt care (-7,950). There was also an overall decrease (-4,739) in available licensed spaces in FCC, and an increase (6,362) in center-based spaces.

Los Angeles County saw a dramatic shift in the utilization of FCC in the last two years. From an estimated surplus of 49,205 spaces in 2004, it appears there is an estimated shortage of 5,309 in 2006, primarily due to the shortages for infant and school-age care. There has been progress in reducing the shortfall of spaces in center-based programs by 17,545; however, there is still a 73,474 space shortage in licensed and license-exempt center-based settings. Although Los Angeles County is making strides toward adding to child care capacity, we are not keeping up with the increasing demands. There were 28,955 more children with working parents between 2004 and 2006.

### **Child Population Projections**

There was an increase of 12,575 infants with working parents from 2004 to 2006. This group will be part of the preschool group within the next year or two. However, this increase is not as large as the current increase in preschool children with working parents (19,547). Therefore, there may be a more modest increase in the number of preschool children requiring care in 2008. Additionally, given the increase in the number of preschoolers who will be school-age in 2008, the current decrease in the number of school-age children with working parents (3,167 decrease from 2004) may no longer be present in 2008 as our current preschoolers move into the school-age group. Therefore, the current shortfall in FCCs and center-based programs for school-age children may grow worse in 2008 without intervention.

## Overview by Ages

The following tables provide the basic comparison of estimated use to capacity. They display numbers from 2004 and 2006 for comparison and indicate dramatic shifts in use of types of care which resulted in changes to estimated care shortfalls and surpluses.

**Table 3: Supply for Infants, Preschool and School-age**

Infants	Number of Children	Number With Working Parents	Estimated use of care by type			Licensed Capacity		Surplus or Shortfall	
			Center	FCC	License Exempt	FCC	Center	FCC	Center
2004	286,345	130,182	31,178	16,914	82,071	27,323	7,871	9,965	-23,307
2006	306,197	142,757	20,985	29,679	92,093	25,973	8,731	-3,706	-12,254
# change	+19,852	+12,575	-10,193	+12,765	+10,022	-1,350	+860		

Preschool	Number of Children	Number With Working Parents	Estimated use of care by type			Licensed Capacity		Surplus or Shortfall	
			Center	FCC	License Exempt	FCC	Center	FCC	Center
2004	624,862	289,688	191,259	20,228	78,229	45,093	146,321	24,886	-44,925
2006	616,631	309,235	196,055	40,819	72,361	50,091	154,276	9,272	-41,779
# change	-8,231	+19,547	+4,796	+20,591	-5,868	+4,998	+7,955		

School-age	Number of Children	Number With Working Parents	Estimate use of care by type			Licensed Capacity		License-Exempt Capacity (center-based only)	Surplus or Shortfall	
			Center	FCC	License Exempt	FCC	Licensed Center		FCC	Center
2004	1,092,015	571,652	120,598	21,123	429,940	35,601	32,121	63,451	14,354	-25,026
2006	1,093,333	568,485	112,560	38,088	417,836	27,214	31,392	61,727	-10,875	-19,441
# change	+1,318	-3,167	-8,038	+16,965	-12,104	-8,387	-729	-1,725		

The biggest news in the 2006 Needs Assessment is an increased use of FCC by all age groups. It appears that significantly more families and more children are using family child care settings compared with the estimated use of FCC in 2004. This is indicated most strongly by the results of the LACHS conducted in 2005 by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

The numbers for infants and preschool-age children are based on the responses from the parents of infants, toddlers, or preschool-age children who were asked what child care arrangements they have for their children. The choices included: Head Start or State Preschool Program, center-based child care, in-home, and in-another's home, including licensed family child care as a separate sub-category. The responses indicated that children in 36% of households have more than one care arrangement.

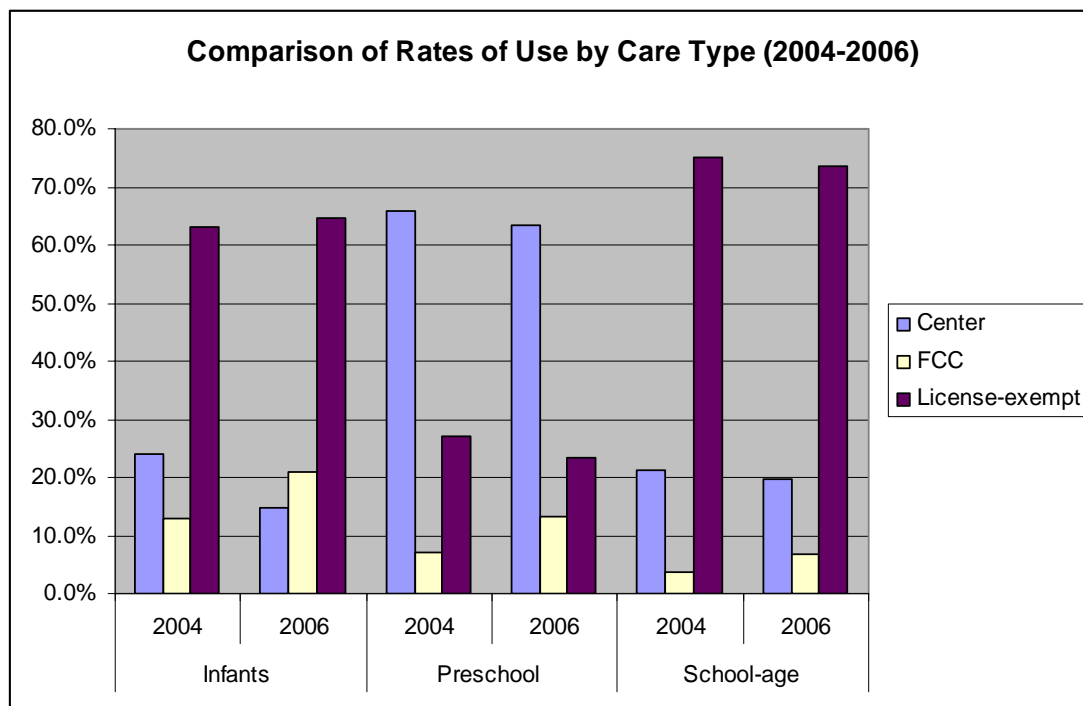
The rates of estimated use of types of child care for infants and preschool-age children presented in the Needs Assessment are as follows:



- 14.7% of families with infants are estimated to use centers. This is a decrease from 24% in 2004 (2003 LACHS survey)
- 20.8% of families with infants are estimated to use FCC. This is a dramatic increase compared to the 2004 figure (13%).
- 64.5% of families with infants are likely to use license-exempt friends, family, and neighbors. This is a slight increase from the reported rate of 63.1% in 2004.
- 63.4% of families with preschool-age children are estimated to use center-based care. This is a slight decrease from the rate of use reported in 2004 (66%).
- 13.2% of families with preschool-age children are estimated to use FCC. This is almost double the rate reported in the 2003 LACHS survey (7%) and included in the 2004 Needs Assessment.
- 23.4% of families with preschool-age children are estimated to use license-exempt care. This is a decrease from the reported rate of 27% in 2004.

Data on use of types of care by families with school-age children is derived from an Urban Institute report of the National American Family Survey (2005). This was used as local statistics (Los Angeles County specific) are not available.

- 19.8% of families with school-age children are likely to use center-based care. This is a slight decrease from the rate (21.1%) reported in 2004.
- 6.7% of families with school-age children are likely to use family child care. This is nearly double the rate of 3.7% reported in 2004.
- 73.5% of families with school-age children are likely to use license-exempt (non center-based). This is a decrease from the reported rate of 75.2% in 2004.



## **Understanding the Change**

Shifts in rates of estimated use of different care types were large enough to raise questions as the data was reviewed. What are the factors that have resulted in this shift toward greater use of FCC over the last two to three years? There appears to be no single reason; rather there are multiple factors that have combined to affect this shift. The factors can be categorized in the following ways:

- Demographic changes and market pressures
- Licensed capacity and license-exempt center capacity changes
- Training and support factors

### **Demographic Changes and Market Pressures**

In general, there are more working families. The unemployment rate in Los Angeles County is approximately 4.2% (October 2006). It has averaged 4.9% in 2006 and 5.6% in the previous year. In 2003-2004 the unemployment rate was higher (6.4%).

The CalWORKs caseloads are less in 2006 than they have been. A comparison of caseloads now and in 2004 indicates a 10% decline. Most of the families no longer on CalWORKs have entered the workforce and have an ongoing need for child care.

### **Infants and Toddlers**

There has been a 7% increase in the infant/toddler population (19,500+) since 2004. In addition, there was an increase of approximately 12,000 infants and toddlers whose parents are employed. This is indicated by the overall increase in the percent of working families with infants: 47% in 2006 compared to 45% in 2004. In short, there were more families looking for infant care settings than two years ago (see table on page 6).

Staff from Resource and Referral (R&R) programs have reported that while many parents of infants call asking for center referrals, they soon call back asking for family child care once they realize how few spaces are available (8,731 Countywide). Moreover infant care costs are among the highest at an average of \$860/month for full-time care per child according to the Regional Market Rate Study (2005). R&R staff also report that families are awakening to the comfort of FCC settings for their youngest children. There are usually fewer adults to whom a child must relate daily as opposed to the number of staff in a typical infant center. In addition, FCC tends to be much more flexible in terms of the hours of care.

In effect, more families are becoming aware of FCC as an option. The unavailability of center-based care may also account for the slight increase (1.4%) in use of license-exempt care including friends, family, neighbors, and nannies.

### **Preschool-Age**

There are nearly 8,000 fewer preschool-age children in the Los Angeles County than in 2004. However, there has been an increase in the number of working families resulting

in an increase in preschool-age children with employed parents (19,000+). This increases demand for full-day child care options (see table on page 6).

Moreover, the universal preschool movement has been promoting the message that young children should have a preschool experience prior to entering kindergarten. This may have influenced families in seeking center-based, or other licensed care, over friends, family, etc. The rate of use of license-exempt care for this age group dropped by 2.6%. Public awareness about pre-kindergarten experiences has also been noted by FCC providers who have become more adept at presenting their home environments as suitable settings for early education. R&R staff report an increasing number of FCC homes having classroom-like environments.

### School-Age

The school-age population has increased by less than a thousand children, while the number of children with working parents has decreased by approximately 3,000. This should result in a slight decrease in demand (see table on page 6).

Along with demographic changes, another factor affecting choice of care may be the public awareness of after-school hours as a time when school-age children are likely to engage in risky behavior, especially if they are “latch-key” children. Finally, the emphasis on test score improvements stemming from the standards set by the federal legislation known as *No Child Left Behind*, has given an incentive to schools to encourage after-school support and enrichment in the hopes of improving student performance. Both of these would support an increase in demand.

However, as with infant care, if center-based spaces are not open or available, families seek other options. Since there appears to be a slight drop in the use of license-exempt care (2.7%), the only option other than centers is FCC. The R&R programs have reported that more FCC providers are offering transportation after-school, an attractive prospect for working families.

### **Licensed Capacity and License-Exempt Center Capacity Changes**

There are two ways to look at changes in capacity. The first is to look at the numbers of licensed facilities or license-exempt facilities and their service spaces which can be called “actual capacity”. If three centers open in a community each with a capacity to serve 100 children, the community’s child care capacity has *actually* increased by 300 spaces.

The other way to view capacity is to consider the distribution of ages served within the facilities or “use capacity”. This applies primarily to FCC homes whose licenses allow some flexibility in the ages of the children served. For example, a FCC home is licensed for eight and the provider currently serves four preschool-age children and four school-age children. If this provider decides to serve infant/toddlers, she may realign her capacity so that there would be two openings for infants, four for preschool and only two for school-age children. The “use capacity” has increased for infants in this home, but decreased for school-age children.

Most providers do not have specific, static “use capacity” numbers. Rather they respond to market demand and the ages they serve (or spaces allocated by age group) depend on the requests coming from prospective parent/clients. Thus “use capacity” is very fluid and can only be measured at specific points in time. For the purposes of the 2006 Needs Assessment, the point-in-time measure obtained from the Los Angeles Child Care Workforce Study (2006) is used to calculate the distribution of ages within FCC, or the “use capacity”.

### Infants and Toddlers

Licensed capacity increased in infant/toddler centers by 860 spaces (11%) between 2004 and 2006. This indicates an increase in actual capacity in the form of additional facilities and increased spaces in existing center facilities. However, the “use capacity” within FCC homes for infants decreased by about 1,500 spaces. This is due to fewer FCCs and to a shift in enrollment ratios within existing FCCs.

In 2005-2006, the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment with the California Resource & Referral Network conducted an extensive phone survey of FCC providers, including a large sample within Los Angeles County. During the interview, providers were asked what their current enrollment was and what ages were served. The results of this survey provided a basis for allocation of spaces by age group within FCC in Los Angeles County. Based on the study results, it is estimated that, on average, a small FCC provider will have 1.6 to 2.1 infants; and a large FCC provider would have 2.9 to 3.4 infants, assuming full enrollment. This is almost exactly the same as in 2004 (= .1 more on average per home). Given the similarity in distribution patterns, it would seem that the decrease in capacity is related to fewer licensed facilities.

Ultimately, there are fewer spaces for infants, although more of the existing spaces are being used. In the assessment done in 2004, there was a surplus of 9,965 spaces in FCC. So the decrease in FCC homes is probably a reaction to an oversupplied market. It can also be assumed that the increase in infant center spaces is a reaction to heightened demand in the marketplace.

### Preschool-Age

Licensed capacity in centers for preschool-age children rose between 2004 and 2006 with an increase of approximately 4,796 spaces (+3%). Most of these spaces were for half-day programs for four year-olds, a result of the universal preschool initiative in Los Angeles County (LAUP) and State Preschool expansion over the last two years. The half-day preschool spaces are used by both working families (as a default) and by families that do not need regular child care services because there is at least one adult at home.

FCC capacity also increased by nearly 5,000 spaces (4,998, 11%). Again, based on the workforce survey of FCC, it appears there has been an increase in preschool enrollments in FCC: from an average of 2.7 children per home to 3.6 in small homes; and from an average of 6.3 to 7.4 in large homes. This is an increase of .5 on average per small home and 1.0 on average per large home. This shift in “use capacity” is sufficient to explain the increased capacity in FCC for preschool-age children. There

has actually been a decrease in the number of licensed FCCs; however, more of the available spaces are now being utilized.

### School-Age

Licensed center capacity for school-age children decreased by approximately 700 spaces (2%) since 2004. There was a reduction of 3% in license-exempt, center-based care on school sites (-1700 spaces). This added to the pressure on an already tight market for after-school programs.

FCC spaces for school-age children also decreased by 8,000+ spaces. That amounts to a decrease of almost 24% from capacity in 2004. However, in 2004 it was estimated that there was a large surplus of FCC spaces for school-age children (14,354). Again, it appears that an oversupplied market resulted in a number of homes closing.

At the same time, it appears that there are fewer school-age children, on average, per FCC home than in 2004. In 2006, on average, small homes had 1.7 to 2.4 school-age children enrolled; and large homes had 2.8 to 3.2 school-age children enrolled. In 2004 the numbers were 2.1 to 2.9 for small homes and 3.4 to 3.7 for large homes. While there are fewer school-age children per home on average, if we are to understand the increased rate of use of FCC by school-age children, then it seems that more FCC providers are caring for school-age children along with other age groups.

Staff from the R&Rs have confirmed that more providers have added transportation services to be able to care for children after-school, and are more willing to open to any age group in order to ensure a viable business.

### **Training and Support Factors**

The R&Rs serving Los Angeles County are responsible for much of the training that is available for FCC providers outside of college coursework. Also, Family Child Care Home Education Networks are required to provide training and support to FCCs who are part of the Network. R&R staff report an increase in interest in the training offered and more requests for specific training such as working with school-age children, preparing children for kindergarten, serving children with special needs, etc.

The R&Rs have always offered training and technical assistance related to marketing for providers. FCC homes are relatively easy to start up, but it takes a while (estimated minimum of two years) until the provider's business is viable. Given the oversupply of FCC that Los Angeles County has experienced in the last few years, providers who were committed could not sit back and wait for children to be referred. They needed to market their services; many took advantage of the training and support offered through the R&Rs. The universal message from the R&R trainers was not to limit service, but to be willing to meet the needs and expectations of the customer base. Providers who prepared themselves to offer quality infant care, or pre-kindergarten experiences, or appropriate after-school care were ready to take advantage of the market swing in their direction. The providers themselves may have influenced the swing in that parents, who had few other choices, were pleased with what was offered in the homes they encountered. Many successful FCC providers have stated that most business comes from word of mouth from satisfied parents using their services.

Finally, perceptions of FCC may have been altered through such public endeavors as *A Place of Our Own*, the KCET produced television program highlighting FCC. While the program is intended for FCC providers, other viewers can begin to sense the potential of a FCC environment through this series of television broadcasts.

Several recommendations from the previous Needs Assessment dealt with the oversupply of FCC in the Los Angeles County. Among the recommendations were to support training and technical assistance that improved the professional demeanor and business skills of providers; to improve the quality of the care offered in FCC; and promote the image of quality FCC to parents as a viable choice for their children.

These have been implemented in various degrees through the training and support offered through the R&Rs, Los Angeles County Office of Education, public television programming, and other sources. These efforts seem to have affected the outcome in terms of the numbers of families using FCC.



## **V. Findings and Recommendations**

### **Finding 1: Increased use of family child care (FCC) for all age groups.**

There is increasing demand for care from more families entering the workforce; and there are fewer, or only minimal increases, in center spaces. It appears that FCC providers have been improving their capabilities and their marketing, and there is an increased willingness to serve a variety of ages. This has set the conditions for more families to be willing to look at/try FCC as a choice. These factors help to explain the shifts in the rate of use of the types of care which in turn have resulted in major changes in the shortfall and surplus numbers for Los Angeles County.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Continuing efforts that have been employed over the past two years and which were noted in the 2004 Needs Assessment. These efforts should include:

- Increasing the emphasis on, and supports for, parent communication skills, professional demeanor, and quality care strategies in the training of FCC providers.
- Developing the business skills of FCC providers to improve their viability and their ability to market both themselves and their homes to dispel public misperceptions and meet parental expectations.
- Enhancing the public's understanding of high quality FCC and how it can meet the unique needs (multiple ages, varied schedules) of families.
- Promoting FCC as an appropriate option for children of all ages needing child care, especially for infants and young children.
- Expanding training on best practices, and working with multi-age children.

### **Finding 2: Despite increases in licensed care in some areas, expanded capacity has done little to keep up with increasing numbers of children whose parents are working.**

The only group that has seen an increase in actual and "use capacity" has been preschool children. To a great extent this is the outcome of public investment in preschool-age, pre-kindergarten programs. Infants and school-age children experienced the greatest shortfalls in care capacity, although this will vary by specific area. In addition, there are thousands of families who cannot afford market rate child care and, therefore, create little market pressure to develop more care unless public subsidies are available.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Increase the amount of public funding available to support full-day child care and development services so that there is an impetus to create more centers for low-income families and expand existing services. Additional licensed center-based care will not be developed in low-income communities without the assurance of public subsidy to underwrite the cost of operating.

2. Encourage existing licensed centers to expand to serve more children. Center based care for 0-5 year olds is much more expensive to develop and requires more development time than FCC and school-age program options. However, it may be possible for many centers to expand services on current sites. Changing room configurations to use space differently or adding on rooms in high quality preschool/child care programs could expand the options for infants and/or toddlers. In addition to addressing the continuing shortage of infant/toddler care, this would create a continuum of care for a family. This is a viable strategy in communities where families can fully pay the fees required to support high quality or in communities where government subsidies can ensure sufficient financial support to cover costs.
3. Support projects such as Constructing Connections LA which facilitate the development of more centers by connecting organizations and individuals with the technical assistance and supports (financial, architectural, etc.) needed to successfully construct or renovate facilities for young children.
4. Make assessment data available to anyone in Los Angeles County with intentions to expand or develop care so that effective decision-making about where to locate facilities matches need and demand. The website, <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us/childcare>, created by Los Angeles County, Office of Child Care is a response to this recommendation.
5. Encourage municipalities and businesses to invest in the development of center-based care to serve their workforces, as well as the community.
6. Encourage the development of school-age enrichment and supervision programs on every elementary school site to address the before and after-school needs of the students. These center-based, campus programs may be license-exempt, but should adhere to standards of operation that promote program quality. Enrichment and supervision programs should be viewed as a part of the school's mission since they support student achievement, school attendance, student participation, and a sense of community. With the expansion of the After School Education and Safety program (ASES) funded through Prop 49, there will be 600 new sites offering some type of after-school programming during the school year. However, there are still dozens of elementary campuses that do not have an after-school option; and many of the current programs do not operate during vacation periods. Monitoring the development and use of the new ASES program sites by working families should be undertaken in order to understand the potential gaps in care for children of working families.
7. Include child care in housing and multi-use developments as a way to overcome the difficulty in finding appropriate sites on which to build child care centers. Either centers or FCC can be accommodated in residential developments.
8. Persuade local government agencies to earmark developer fees, Community Development Block Grant funds, and other income sources for the construction of child care centers.



9. Continue efforts by all stakeholders to reduce or eliminate local regulatory barriers to the development of child care center facilities while maintaining quality and safety standards.

**Finding 3: The only age group which experienced an increase in capacity in both center-based and FCC care was preschool.**

The increase in licensed center spaces was primarily due to an expansion of half-day preschool programs over the last two years. These programs, while meeting an important need, do not address the fact that more than half of all parents with four-year olds are in the workforce and many have children of different ages.

Increases in FCC are due primarily to a shift in the “use capacity”. That is, providers chose to take in more preschool-age children over infants or school-age children. This too may be the result of the promotion of pre-kindergarten. A very few providers have even converted solely to serving preschool children on a half-day basis so they can accommodate a morning and afternoon group. While this technically increases the spaces available, it reduces the capacity for children needing full-day care, as well as care for infants and toddlers.

**Recommendations:**

1. Develop and use better projections of need for pre-kindergarten programs in specific areas by collecting and sharing data on the current availability of pre-kindergarten programs, the rate of utilized funding for these programs, and the areas with population most needing a half-day preschool programs.
2. Advocate for more full-day/full-year options with the expansion of any preschool program such as Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) or State Preschool.

**Finding 4: There are differences in capacity and need among Service Planning Areas.**

**Recommendations:**

1. Provide the profiles for each SPA to the Service Planning Councils of each SPA. Meet and work with any subgroups of the SPA Councils that may be working on related matters to determine strategies for addressing the child care capacity needs at the local level.

**Finding 5: There continues to be a frequent use of license-exempt care.**

Although it has decreased slightly, the use of license-exempt care provided by individuals remains an important component of the child care infrastructure in Los Angeles County with nearly 54% of all children in working families estimated to be using some form of license-exempt care provided by family, friends, and neighbors.

There is an inverse relationship between the use of license-exempt care and the availability of licensed care: the less availability of licensed options (or license-exempt school-based programs), the greater the use of license-exempt care. The current licensed care capacity for infants and toddlers can accommodate only one in every four children, and only one in five school-age children can be accommodated; whereas two

out of every three preschool-age children can access a licensed setting. The use of license-exempt care by preschool-age children is only 23.4%; while license-exempt care (non-center-based) is used by 64.5% of infants and toddlers; and by 73.5% of school-age children.

While more licensed care should be available, there will always be a need for license-exempt options. Many families have work schedules that are accommodated within the usual operating hours of centers and FCC. Families with children of varying ages find that it is more convenient to rely on a familiar license-exempt provider who can work with all the children in the family. There are also financial reasons that families choose license-exempt care since the family may be able to negotiate a rate that is affordable, or no cost; and if the family is eligible for financial assistance, the subsidy payment for care can contribute to the support of a family member who provides the care.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Initiate or expand opportunities for license-exempt providers to receive training and support that will improve the quality of care offered to children in their care. This is particularly important for those children whose care is subsidized by the California Department of Education (CDE) since they are entitled to care that meets CDE's high standards.
2. Continue to expand the availability of licensed facilities and license-exempt center-based care to allow families real choices in child care arrangements (see Finding 2 Recommendations).
3. Increase and improve methods of disseminating information about where families can find out how to connect with licensed child care and development services. Los Angeles County has an excellent system of child care R&R services but not all families know about these services.
4. Ensure that all families with 3- and 4-year olds who use license-exempt care through the CalWORKs or Alternative Payment programs are aware of the local preschool programs which could provide a pre-kindergarten experience. These children could be enrolled in preschool and still use the license-exempt provider for wrap around care.

## VI. Service Planning Area Profiles

Based on the collected data, there appeared to be differences in the changes related to population and to capacity among the eight SPAs. In Table 4, page 23, the rates of these changes are compared to the Countywide averages. Table 4 displays the variances among the SPAS for each of the three age groups and for three factors: 1) The number of children with working parents; 2) licensed capacity in FCC and in centers; and 3) capacity in license-exempt school-age programs.

The pages following Table 4 contain a profile for each SPA including the availability and need for child care and development services. Included in these SPA level assessments is information on income and other population characteristics that have a bearing on the use of and access to child care services.



**Table 4: Percent Changes from 2004 to 2006**

Infants	Number of children with working families	Licensed Capacity	
		FCC	Centers
<b>Countywide</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>11%</b>
SPA 1	13%	13%	51%
SPA 2	9%	-7%	24%
SPA 3	10%	-5%	11%
SPA 4	12%	-4%	-1%
SPA 5	16%	-8%	29%
SPA 6	10%	-10%	9%
SPA 7	7%	-6%	-10%
SPA 8	8%	-2%	14%

Preschool	Number of children with working families	Licensed Capacity	
		FCC	Centers
<b>Countywide</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>
SPA 1	4%	28%	6%
SPA 2	8%	12%	7%
SPA 3	7%	11%	5%
SPA 4	9%	14%	10%
SPA 5	18%	12%	5%
SPA 6	6%	2%	5%
SPA 7	4%	10%	4%
SPA 8	5%	14%	2%

School-age	Number of children with working families	Licensed Capacity		Capacity in license-exempt after-school programs
		FCC	Centers	
<b>Countywide</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
SPA 1	-5%	-7%		46%
SPA 2	1%	-14%		-26%
SPA 3	-2%	35%		13%
SPA 4	3%	-48%		-23%
SPA 5	6%	-28%		-10%
SPA 6	-2%	-28%		-11%
SPA 7	-1%	25%		36%
SPA 8	-1%	-24%		21%

## **SPA 1: Antelope Valley**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 1 has the smallest resident child population of the eight SPAs with approximately 70,000 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. Of these, 51% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. This slight increase from 2004 (50%) is due primarily to the number of infants with working families which increased 13%, well over the County average of 10%. However, the changes in the numbers of preschool and school-age children with working families are smaller than the County averages: preschool children increased by 4% compared to the County average of 7% and school-age children declined by 5% while the Countywide decline is only .05% (see Table 4).

The following table indicates the current licensed capacity in FCC and center-based programs, and in license-exempt school-based centers for school-age children, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	FCC	Center	FCC	Center	FCC	Center*
# Spaces	2,006	230	3,765	4,009	2,148	1,233+ 2,271
# Gap between capacity and need**	+1,124	-394	+2,290	-3,077	+633	-974

\* **Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt center spaces.**

\*\* **Minus estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us>**

In some zip code areas of SPA 1 there are small shortages of FCC; however, in areas with larger populations, there remains an oversupply. The oversupply for the entire SPA is smaller, by approximately 1,000 spaces, than in 2004. At the same time there is a shortage of center-based care (4,445 spaces) across all age groups. Even if all the FCC spaces were utilized, there would still be a shortage of center-based spaces (1,128) for preschool and school-age children. Care for all ages is centered in the Palmdale and Lancaster areas which are the major population centers of the SPA. One of the challenges in developing and utilizing child care in Antelope Valley is the great distances between some residential areas and employment centers, and the great distance between the Antelope Valley and the rest of Los Angeles County. It is approximately 65 miles between the San Fernando Valley and Lancaster. Families in outlying areas must rely more heavily on kith and kin care (license-exempt). Families using care in Antelope Valley and traveling to the Los Angeles County basin for work require longer hours of care.

When we compare licensed capacity (family child care and center) and license-exempt, school-based center capacity to overall need the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	52.7%	70%	25%
Space: Child Ratio	1:2	7:10	1:4

The preschool ratio of capacity to need (approximately seven spaces for every 10 children) is lower than the school-age ratio (1-4). However, the capacity numbers include part-day preschool programs such as State Preschool and Head Start which account for approximately 1/3 of the licensed capacity in centers for preschool-age children. It is not clear at this time how many of the families needing full-day service are also using these part-day options.

In general the numbers show a positive trend. All of the capacity rates compared to need have increased and the preschool and school-age ratios are lower than in 2004.

### **School-Age Issues**

There are 16 zip codes with a population of school-age children with working parents. Of these, 10 have both licensed and license-exempt center-based care options available. Only one zip code with a significant child population has no license-exempt after-school care. With the exception of zip code area 93550, the areas with both licensed center care and license-exempt school-based programs continue to have a gap between need and capacity. Generally speaking, the ratio of school-age capacity to need is going to be less compared with the ratios for other age groups due to the high use of license-exempt care options (kith and kin) which are not counted in the capacity totals.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), at least 53.7% of families with children have annual incomes less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI).

Of all children 0-17 years of age in Antelope Valley, 20.8% are living in poverty. As of September 2006, 11,397 children (0-12) are in families aided through CalWORKs. This is 16% of the child population. The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and the cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC.

The zip code areas for Lancaster and Palmdale, as well as additional zip codes (93543 and 93591) have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized child care. These areas are considered first priority for the development of new subsidized child care services. As of December 2006, there were 3,004 SPA 1 children, of all ages, registered on the Los Angeles County Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) whose families were waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

## **SPA 2: San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 2 has the largest resident child population of any of the eight SPAs with approximately 399,000 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. Of these, 52.6% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. The following table indicates the current licensed capacity in FCC and center-based programs, and in license-exempt centers for school-age children only, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	FCC	Center	FCC	Center	FCC	Center*
# Spaces	4325	2044	8544	34551	4479	7757+10,506
# Gap between capacity and need **	-1740	-394	+114	-5937	-3775	-6130

\* *Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.*

\*\* *Minus estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://qismap.co.la.ca.us>*

There is a shortage of center-based care (12,000+ spaces) across all age groups; and for the first time, it appears there is a shortage in capacity in FCC for infants and school-age children. This is a result of the dynamics described in Section IV. Licensed center capacity and license-exempt capacity for school-age children decreased over the last few years while licensed capacity increased for infants and preschool-age children. The rate of increase for infants was more than twice the Countywide average (see Table 4). When licensed capacity and license-exempt, school-based center capacity is compared to overall need, the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	22%	68%	19%
Space: Child Ratio	1:5	7:10	1:5

It is clear that the availability of infant and school-age care options is limited when compared to the numbers of children in the market for child care. The trend for both of these groups is negative. That is, the capacity to need percentage is lower than in 2004. Space-to-child ratios have remained roughly the same except for infants where the ratio increased from 1:4 to 1:5. Preschool capacity and ratio has remained the same and preschool capacity is closer to matching estimated need. However, the capacity numbers include part-day preschool programs such as State Preschool, Head Start, and LAUP.

### **School-Age Care**

Generally speaking there are, in areas with high population, school-age programs on public school sites. However, in certain densely populated communities, the need still far exceeds the current capacity. These areas include Van Nuys, North Hollywood, and the Saugus/Santa Clarita area. Other areas have capacity deficits to a lesser degree although the percent of the deficit is high compared to potential need. For example, in the Sherman Oaks area, there are an estimated 500 children needing licensed after-school care, while there are only 158 licensed spaces and no license-exempt after-school campus programs available. Unlike 2004, very few zip codes appear to



have any surplus spaces in either centers or FCC. The situation would be even more difficult if not for the high use of license-exempt care (kith and kin).

As stated before, there is a negative trend for school-age care in SPA 2 as capacity is only 19% of need compared with 22% in 2004.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), 51% of families with children have annual incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI).

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 2, 18.2% are living in poverty. As of September 2006, 26,033 children (0-12) were in families aided through CalWORKs. This is 6.5% of the child population. The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC.

In terms of the need for subsidized care, 43 of the 76 zip code areas in SPA 2 have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized care. These areas are considered first priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of December 2006, there were 7,307 SPA 2 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

### **SPA 3: San Gabriel Valley**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 3 has the second largest resident child population of any of the eight SPAs with approximately 348,000 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. This number represents a slight decrease from 2004. Of these children, 53% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. The following table indicates the current capacity in licensed FCC and center-based, and in license-exempt school-based programs for school-age children, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center*</i>
<b># Spaces</b>	3,770	1,818	7,140	29,886	7,138	7,138+10,776
<b># Gap between capacity and need**</b>	-2049	-1699	-257	-5643	-3106	-3091

\* Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.

\*\*Minus estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us>



As in other SPAs, there now appear to be shortfalls in FCC capacity. At the same time there remains a shortage of center-based care (11,000+) spaces across all age groups; however, this is much less than the shortfall of 16,000 spaces reported in 2004. Increases were most dramatic in school-age care and in preschool-age care (950). Compared to reductions in center-based care for school-age children Countywide (2-3%), there was an increase of approximately 2,000 spaces (13%) in SPA 3 (see Table 4). Despite increases in all forms of center based care, the area still needs many more center-based spaces.

When we compare licensed capacity and license-exempt, school-based center capacity to overall need the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	24%	66%	20%
Space: Child Ratio	1:4	7:10	1:5

The gap between what is needed and what is available is more pronounced for infants and school-age children. A higher percentage of the children in these age groups tend to use license-exempt, kith and kin care currently, which explains some of the disparity. However, it is unclear how many more of these families would choose/use licensed care or license-exempt centers for school-age children, if such settings were more available. The disparity between licensed and license-exempt center-based options and child care need is a reflection of what exists now as compared to what parents would like to have available. Preschool capacity is closer to matching estimated need. However, the capacity numbers include part-day preschool programs such as State Preschool and Head Start. SPA 3 has the highest percentage of part-day preschool programs and spaces of any SPA. In general, most communities display continuing shortfalls in most zip code areas, although the size of the shortfall can be very small for some areas (less than 100 spaces). One exception is Pasadena where most zip codes display surpluses of from 5 to 578 spaces for preschool and school-age care. At the same time, shortfalls remain for infant care in both centers and FCC in most of Pasadena. El Monte is an example of an area which has significant shortfalls for all ages in both centers and FCC.

### **School-Age Care**

Generally speaking, in areas with a large school-age population, there are school-age programs on public school sites. However, there are three zip codes areas with a substantial shortfall of center-based care for school-age children, a shortfall in FCC, and with no license-exempt school-based programs: Baldwin Park (91702), Alhambra (91801), and West Covina (91792). In some cases, there is a surplus of school-age care in neighboring communities. However, unlike care for infants and preschoolers, care for school-age children needs to be close to the school sites to accommodate school schedules and to minimize the need for transportation.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), at least 51% of families with children have annual

incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI). The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC.

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 3, 18.7% are living in poverty. In terms of the need for subsidized care, 42 of the 49 zip code areas in SPA 3 have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized care. These areas are considered first priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of December 2006, there were 9,982 SPA 3 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

#### **SPA 4: Metro (Central Los Angeles County)**

Geographically the smallest, SPA 4 has a resident child population of approximately 230,707 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. Of these, 42% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. This is the lowest rate of workforce participation among all the SPAs. While the rate of workforce participation did not change from 2004, the increase in the numbers of children combined with a reduction in licensed capacity for infants and school-age has resulted in increased shortfalls in this SPA. The following table indicates the current capacity in licensed FCC and centers, and in license-exempt, school-based programs, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center*</i>
<b># Spaces</b>	1720	920	3339	15897	1794	2169+4784
<b># Gap between capacity and need**</b>	-1266	-1191	-883	-4382	-1866	-3567

\* *Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.*

\*\**Minus estimated use of license-exempt spaces; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us>*

As in other SPAs, there is a shortage of center-based care (9,000+ spaces) which increased between 2004 and 2006. In addition, we now see a shortfall in FCC as well (3,800+ spaces). When we compare licensed capacity and license-exempt, school-based center capacity to overall need the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	18.4%	60%	16.5%
Space: Child Ratio	1:5/6	3:5	1:6

The gap between what is needed and what is available is more pronounced for infants (1:5/6) and for school-age children (1:6) and is greater than in 2004. The preschool capacity ratio (3:5) held steady and the percentage of capacity to need actually increased by 1%. However, this ratio includes part-day State Preschool, Head Start,

and LAUP spaces which do not meet families' needs for full-day care, or for infants and children not yet four year's old.

In general, the trend is a negative one for school-age and infants and positive for preschool-ages.

### **School-Age Care**

The loss of a few thousand spaces in this SPA has dramatically impacted availability of care for school-age children. These communities appear to be impacted more than others: Echo Park/Silverlake/Los Feliz; Highland Park and Eagle Rock, Westlake, El Sereno, and Mid City/Korea Town. Each of these communities has sizeable shortfalls in center-based care and in FCC. In two zip codes there is no license-exempt school-based care reported. While there is a surplus of school-age care in neighboring communities, unlike care for infants and preschoolers, care for school-age children needs to be close to the school sites to accommodate school schedules and to minimize transportation needs.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)) , nearly 77% of families with children have annual incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs which is set at 75% of State Median Income (SMI). The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care averages \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC.

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 4, 36.6% are living in poverty. As of September 2006, 31,572 children 0-12 were in families supported by CalWORKs. This area has a greater need for subsidy, given the income levels of families, despite the fact that the overall population is smaller than in other SPAs. There are sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families in 24 of 42 zip code areas in SPA 4 to justify the creation of additional subsidized child care. These areas are considered first priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of January 2006, there were 6,775 SPA 4 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

### **SPA 5: West**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 5 has a resident child population of approximately 85,090 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. Of these, 53% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. This SPA has one of the highest rates of workforce participation of any of the SPAs.

The following table indicates the current capacity in licensed FCC and centers, and in license-exempt, school-based programs, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center*</i>
<b># Spaces</b>	760	560	1516	10,923	777	2499+1968
<b># Gap between capacity and need**</b>	-682	-460	-344	+1988	-901	-490

\* **Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.**

\*\* **Minus the estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us>**

SPA 5 now has shortfalls where in 2004, there were surpluses. There has been an increase in center spaces for infants and preschool, but a decrease in school-age spaces. There remains a surplus in preschool-age care although it is less than in 2004 (+2,520 spaces). One factor to be considered for specific communities in SPA 5 is that many people commute to work or school to communities such as Santa Monica and Westwood. These commuters often use the child care available to them near work or on UCLA's campus. This implies that the 0-5 population needing care could be larger than the resident population alone. When we compare licensed capacity and exempt, center-based capacity to overall need the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	19%	87%	18%
Space: Child Ratio	1:5	9:10	1:5

Here the biggest disparities are to be seen in the infant and school-age groups. This SPA overall has the lowest capacity-to-need ratios for ages 2-5: nine spaces for every 10 children. In strict numbers, this SPA has the least shortfall with an overall shortage of only 1,000 spaces across ages. However, the trend in this SPA is a negative one, since all three age categories have reduced capacity to need percents and higher ratios of spaces to children than in 2004.

### **School-Age Care**

Generally speaking, there is widely distributed availability of care for the school-age population whose families are looking for licensed care or license-exempt school site programs. However, there are a few communities (90034 and 90066) which have greater shortfalls in center-based care, and have shortfalls in FCC. In a few cases there is a surplus of school-age care in neighboring communities. However, unlike care for infants and preschoolers, care for school-age children needs to be close to the school sites to accommodate school schedules and to minimize transportation needs.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), nearly 37% of families with children have annual

incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI). The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC. Costs of care are generally higher in SPA 5. Example: full-time infant care averages \$997/month in Santa Monica.

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 5, 13.9% are living in poverty. As of September 2006, there were 2,428 children 0-12 living in families supported through CalWORKs. In terms of the need for subsidized care, only nine of 34 zip code areas in SPA 5 have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized care, including these zip codes: 90034, 90045, and 90066. These nine areas are considered priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of December 2006, there were 1,338 SPA 5 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

### **SPA 6: South**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 has a resident child population of approximately 263,691 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. Of these, 41.7% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. This SPA has the lowest rate of working families among all SPAs; this is reflected in the percentages of low-income families (see household income). The following table indicates the current capacity in licensed FCC and centers, and in license-exempt, school-based programs, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center*</i>
<b># Spaces</b>	4833	723	9328	16327	5066	2205+9617
<b># Gap between capacity and need**</b>	+1375	-1722	+4795	-5446	+1028	-112

\* *Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.*

\*\* *Minus the estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://qismap.co.la.ca.us>*

SPA 6 has the greatest surplus in family child care spaces with an overall surplus of 7,200 spaces. This is half of the surplus reported in 2004. There is a shortage of center-based care (7,200+ spaces) particularly for infants and preschool-age children. This is a slight decrease from the shortfalls reported in 2004 (-8,000). The trend in higher use of FCC has contributed to these changes. When we compare licensed capacity, FCC and center, and license-exempt, center-based capacity for school-age to the overall need, the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	33%	75%	28%
Space: Child Ratio	1:3	3:4	3:10



All of these capacity percentages are higher than the Countywide average and they reflect the amount of capacity development that has taken place over that last 10 years, primarily in the subsidized sector. The high numbers of family child care providers are a reflection of initiatives to create home businesses for low-income women in the wake of welfare reform. However, in this SPA the FCC market is clearly saturated. The only area to have a consistent and substantial FCC shortfall (for infants and school-age) is 90011. Actual demand for FCC is likely to be easily met in surrounding neighborhoods which have surpluses.

The trend is negative in this SPA since capacity to need rates have gone down for all ages and the ratios have increased.

### **School-Age Care**

Generally speaking, there is good availability of care for the school-age population whose families are looking for licensed care or license-exempt school site programs. The supply ratio of school-age is lower than in other SPAs with nearly three out of 10 children able to access a licensed option (FCC or center) or a license-exempt school-based program. However, there are a few communities (Compton and Paramount) that have sizeable gaps between need and capacity for this age group. Paramount, in particular, has not reported any school-based after-school programs. It may be advisable to help FCC providers focus on this age group in those communities, although cost of care will be a factor unless more families can access subsidies.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), over 76% of families with children have annual incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This is the largest percent of low-income families among all the SPAs. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI). The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC.

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 6, 40.4% are living in poverty which is also the highest percent among all SPAs. As of September 2006, 70,190 children 0-12 were living in families supported through CalWORKs. In terms of the need for subsidized care, 80% of all zip code areas in SPA 6 have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized care. These areas are considered first priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of December 2006, there were seven,152 SPA 6 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

## **SPA 7: East**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 7 has a resident child population of approximately 301,073 children between the ages of 0 and 12. Of these, 50% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. This is an increase in the number of working families in this area. The following table indicates the current capacity in licensed FCC and centers, and in license-exempt school-based programs, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.

	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center*</i>
<b># Spaces</b>	3222	530	6206	16,461	3378	2994+11,079
<b># Gap between capacity and need**</b>	-1232	-2619	+134	-12706	-2226	-2486

\* Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.

\*\* Minus the estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by area and calculations go to <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us>

This SPA also displays shortages in FCC, as well as in center-based care. The shortage of center-based care (17,500+ spaces) is substantial across all age groups. When we compare licensed capacity and license-exempt, school-based center capacity to overall need the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	17.5%	49%	16.8%
Space: Child Ratio	1:6	1:2	1:6

Across all age groups, SPA 7 has the least amount of care for the number of children likely to need child care and development services. SPA 7 has the highest capacity to need ratios. Only one in six children (infants and school-age) has access to a licensed space or to a license-exempt, school-based program space. For preschoolers only one in two have access compared to seven out of 10 in several other SPAs.

The trend is negative for school-age and infants; both age groups lost capacity since 2004 as is indicated by the reduced percent of capacity to need and to the higher ratios. Both a reduction in actual spaces and an increase in the number of working families have contributed to this.

Preschool care is the exception. There has been increased capacity due to capacity development efforts by LAUP and others. However, these are primarily half-day spaces and may not be addressing the needs of working families.

### **School-Age Care**

Countywide, 72% families of school-age children appear to be using kith and kin care options. However, the capacity figure in the chart above (16.8%) is even lower than in most other SPAs, which may indicate that higher numbers of children are using license-exempt kith and kin options or self care. These figures represent a snapshot of what is happening currently. It is possible that more families would use a licensed

option or a center-based (license-exempt) school-age program if these options were more available.

The areas with the most severe shortages of licensed or license-exempt school-based care for school-age children are: Bell/Maywood, Downey, Huntington Park, South Whittier, Norwalk, Montebello, and Bellflower. In these communities the unmet need ranges from 150 to 800+ spaces and all have shortfalls in FCC as well as center-based. In a few cases there is a surplus of school-age care in neighboring communities. However, unlike care for infants and preschoolers, care for school-age children needs to be close to the school sites to accommodate school schedules and to minimize transportation needs.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), nearly 60.3% of families with children have annual incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income cap for eligibility for a family of four (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI). The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC.

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 7, 21.5% are living in poverty. As of September 2006, 28,235 children 0-12 years are living in families supported through CalWORKS. In terms of the need for subsidized care, 85% of all zip code areas in SPA 7 have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized care. The same zip codes that lack licensed care options or center-based license-exempt care for school-age children fall into these high need areas. The inability of so many families to afford market rate child care may explain the lack of development of care options. These areas are considered first priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of December 2006, there were 4,364 SPA 7 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

### **SPA 8: South Bay/Harbor**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 has a resident child population of 317,922 children between the ages of 0 and 12 years. Of these, 52.3% have parents who are in the workforce and are likely to need child care services. The following table indicates the current capacity in licensed FCC and centers, and in license-exempt, school-based programs, as well as the gap between availability and need for care.



	<b>INFANTS</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-AGE</b>	
	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>FCC</i>	<i>Center*</i>
# spaces	5318	1906	10279	25062	5570	5397+10726
# Gap between capacity and need**	+415	-1561	+3449	-7739	-762	-2589

\* Capacity number includes both licensed and license-exempt spaces.

\*\* Minus the estimated use of license-exempt care; for complete breakdown of numbers by areas and calculations go to <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us>

SPA 8, as a whole, has a surplus of FCC for infants and preschool-age children. However there are a few communities that appear to have a greater surplus: North Long Beach, Carson, Los Angeles (90047), Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, and San Pedro. Unlike in 2004, there is now a shortfall of FCC for school-age children. The shortage of center-based care (11,500+ spaces) is substantial across all age groups. When licensed capacity and license-exempt center-based capacity is compared to overall need the results are:

Age Group	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Percent of capacity to need	30.1%	68.4%	23%
Space: Child Ratio	3:10	7:10	1:4/5

The biggest disparity between overall need and capacity is with the school-age group. In SPA 8, nearly seven in 10 preschool-age children have access to a licensed care option. The trend in this SPA is positive for preschool and school-age capacity, both of which increased. While the ratio of 3 to 10 for licensed spaces to number of infants is better than in some other SPAs, which generally have a space to infant ratio of 1:5 or 1:6, the percentage of capacity as compared to need for infants dropped from 32% (2004) and the ratio increased from 1:3.

### **School-Age Care**

Countywide, 73.5% of families with school-age children appear to be using license-exempt kith and kin options. The 23% figure in the chart above represents a snapshot of what is happening currently related to use of licensed or license-exempt school-based options. It is possible that more families would use a licensed option or a center-based license-exempt school-age program if these options were more available. The areas with the most severe shortages of licensed or license-exempt center-based care for school-age children are: Long Beach (90805, 90808), Inglewood, sections of Torrance, Carson, Hawthorne, Gardena, and San Pedro. These are some of the same areas that have surplus FCC capacity. Training and support for providers to serve school-age children may be feasible in these communities. In these communities the unmet need ranges from 250 to 400+ spaces. This is an improvement over the shortfall reported in 2004.

### **Household Income and Affordability**

According to data provided by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council website ([www.childrensplanning.org](http://www.childrensplanning.org)), 55% of families with children have annual incomes that are less than \$50,000/year. This amount is slightly higher than the income

cap for eligibility for a family of 4 (\$48,372) for California Department of Education (CDE) subsidized child care and development programs. CDE sets the income cap at 75% of State Median Income (SMI). The County average for full-time infant care in centers is \$860/month, full-time care for preschool is \$405/month, and cost of care in

FCC is \$607 and \$564/month respectively. Part-time after-school care costs an average of \$288/month in centers and \$365/month in FCC. However, in specific communities of SPA 8, the cost of care can be much higher. For instance full-time, center-based infant care costs an average of \$1,025/month in Long Beach.

Of all children 0-17 years of age in SPA 8, 25% are living in poverty. As of September 2006, there were 35,405 children 0-12 living in families supported through CalWORKs. In terms of the need for subsidized care, 30 zip code areas in SPA 8 have sufficient numbers of children in qualifying families to justify the creation of additional subsidized care. Many of the same zip codes that lack licensed care options or center-based license-exempt care for school-age children fall into these low-income areas. The inability of families to afford market rate child care may explain the lack of development of care options. These areas are considered first priority areas for the development of new subsidized child care. As of December 2006, there were 6,923 children, of all ages, registered on the LACEL waiting for financial support to pay for child care services.

